

- 2 -

Ser. No. 09/996,629**IN CLAIMS**

1-22. (withdrawn)

23. (previously presented) A method of automated treatment of a plurality of biological or chemical samples on solid supports, the method comprising:

placing a sample and solid support in a sample well within a sample/collection container comprising a plurality of sample wells;

loading the sample/collection container onto a centrifuge rotor;

before or after loading the sample/collection container onto the centrifuge rotor, dispensing a solution into each well of the plurality of wells;

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a first speed, wherein the first speed is selected to minimize creep between the sample wells; and

spinning the centrifuge rotor at a second speed higher than the first speed to force the sample from the bottom of the sample well to flow up and out of the sample well, across a bridge functionally connected to a drain tube which is functionally connected to a collection well in a collection container wherein the sample from each sample well is drained into the corresponding collection well in the collection container.